

Index to Advertisements. Work Wanted, 100. Real Estate, 100. Business Notices, 100. etc.

Business Notices.

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patches published to-day, there does not appear to be much danger of its being thrown out by that body. A community of economic interests constitutes the surest and most lasting bond of unity between foreign nations, an axiom which the Berlin Convention had in view when it negotiated first the Zollverein with the Southern States of Germany, and later its commercial convention with Austria and Italy.

The outrageous delay on the Speedway still continues. The contractor promised to have a multitude of men at work at once, and Tammany urged that the project be hurried so that employment might be found for idle men, who were in dire distress. Yesterday twenty-three men were at work on the new road. It is clear that Tammany intends to give employment to none but faithful followers of the Wigwam.

Will the people of this city bear this? Will they tamely submit, while the public money appropriated in haste to give work to the needy is turned into a corruption fund to buy votes for Tammany? An end should be put to this farce at once. Fenton, the political turncoat and alleged labor "expert," should be sent adrift; the work should be started in earnest, and unemployed workmen should be hired right away, whether they wear the Wigwam collar or not.

TWO CONVICTIONS NOT ENOUGH.

The conviction of two faithless election inspectors is creditable to the District Attorney's office and encouraging to all honest citizens. To Mr. Avellman, in particular, who has done most of the work of prosecution, public gratitude and commendation are clearly due. He has borne an honorable part in many sensational trials within the last few years, but we doubt if he has ever served the community more substantially than during the last week. There are scores of indictments for similar offenses still to be tried, and it is not expected that convictions can be obtained in all of these cases, but the people have reason to rejoice in the belief that none of them will fall for lack of skill and zeal on the part of Mr. Wellman.

It has seemed to many that the long delay in bringing these offenders to trial was unnecessary, and therefore censurable, since some part of the value of punishment is lost when it is not prompt. But doubtless the labor of preparation was considerable, and there is no present advantage in complaining of a process which is finally producing excellent results.

These convictions are of great value to the community, for the reason that they convey to the willing instruments of fraud at elections their first sharp warning that their vocation is a dangerous one. It is deplorable that the more important rascals whose work these subordinates did to order have not been legally identified with the crimes committed for their benefit, but it is far better that they should learn a useful lesson from the fate of others than none at all. We are not sanguine enough to suppose that their moral sense will be stimulated to such an extent as to make them conscious of the real nature and enormity of the crime of swindling voters. Most of them, it is fair to assume, have passed beyond the possibility of such a regeneration. But it will be an immense service to the public if they can be terrified into acknowledging among themselves, against their will, that election frauds have become unsafe in New-York. And even if no such salutary effect can be produced upon their minds, as distinguished from their consciences, it is extremely desirable that a sample of justice should be put on public exhibition to frighten the horde of smaller knaves upon whom they depend for the execution of their purposes, and who have hitherto been glad to be hired cheaply.

This consideration makes it extremely important that many more convictions should be obtained. It will not do to be merciful at this point to the indicted. It is the community that needs mercy and deliverance from the corrupt despotism which has long been operating through such agents as these. Two convictions are well worth having but they are not nearly enough. The impression which they have created will fade away too soon. The value of the prosecution will increase in geometrical ratio with every penalty imposed. It is the cumulative effect of numerous condemnations that the public needs for its protection in the right of franchise and the possession of free institutions. We dare say that many of these scores of offenders are only dimly aware that they have done anything deserving of punishment. If the leaders whose orders they have been brought up to obey have lost the sense of right and wrong in politics and government, their own capacity to see the difference is likely to be very feeble. They probably think that a great fuss is being made about a small matter. But certainly, if this is so, it is an imperative duty to teach them their mistake.

EXPERT ARCTIC SPECULATIONS.

Dr. Nansen and his fellow-voyagers have now been long beyond sight and reach of their fellow-men. They have entered the unknown. Where and how they are faring are matters only of speculation, and of speculation largely futile. Yet every one who values the extension of scientific knowledge, or who honors mainly daring, must wish to follow them in thought and sympathy. There are, moreover, a few who have ventured upon the margins of that mysterious realm, and who are thus fitted to form some partial estimate of their probable progress. Among these none, perhaps, is entitled to more consideration than Captain Wiggins, the plucky English seaman who has reopened the old trade route through the Kara Sea, and has actually established regular shipping relations between Great Britain and the North Siberian Coast. No one knows those waters so well as he, and no speculation upon the voyage of the Fram is to be regarded with more serious attention than his.

Writing from Yoniseisk, whether he last summer conducted his own merchant fleet, Captain Wiggins discusses in this month's "Geographical Journal" the conditions Dr. Nansen probably encountered after passing Port Dickson, and in and after rounding Cape Chelyuskin. He must have found the drift ice very near the shore, for Captain Wiggins says it was closer down than he had ever before seen it at that season. He must, however, have rounded the Cape, for had he not, but had been forced back to Port Dickson, word would surely have been received from him long before this. Captain Wiggins advised him to steer northward from Cape Chelyuskin, and to avoid Nordenskiöld Sea and the dangerous New-Siberian archipelago, and this, the Captain thinks, he has probably done, if he has been able. If so, he has gone poleward, borne by the strong currents from the Kara Sea and the great Siberian rivers. "By this route," says Captain Wiggins, "I have every faith that the expedition will reach a high latitude, discover new lands, and perhaps closely approach the vicinity of the Pole itself."

low water and strong, erratic currents of the New-Siberian Islands. Even then the expedition would not necessarily come to grief. At worst it would probably only have to spend the winter among those desolate islands, or in the Lena Delta; in which case we may hear from it before long. But such delay would be vexatious, and would really mean the loss of a year, since when they set out from the Lena next summer they would be practically no nearer the objects of their quest than when they passed Yugorski Strait last summer. Dr. Bunge, of the Russian Navy, who has just returned from a five years' residence on the New-Siberian Islands, describes that entire region as one of unspeakable desolation, and one by all means to be avoided by voyagers poleward bound. The sum of Captain Wiggins' speculations is, however, that the expedition probably went straight northward from the Cape; but that, in either case, it is safe and sound. There is, however, little reason to expect any actual news of its doings until we hear of its safe return by way of the North Pole, or by way of retreat through the Novaya Zembla sea, the Kara Sea or the Siberian coast.

WHEAT AND SILVER.

The lowest price for wheat ever made comes on the same day with the lowest price ever made at London for silver bullion. These are events of especial and by no means pleasing significance to two large classes of producers, the growers of wheat and the miners of silver. Wheat is the money crop of the Northwest. Many thousand farmers depend upon their sales of this product for the cash they have to pay for supplies purchased during the year, for the comforts and some of the necessities of their homes, for the clothing of wives and children, for furniture, light, books and papers, for the principal or interest on any debt that may be outstanding, and often for wages of hands. When wheat brings \$170 per bushel for every thousand bushels that it brought a year ago the resources of farmers for everything except the bare necessities of life are materially restricted. No one can calculate how much disappointment, privation and real want or serious sacrifice such a decline involves to the great army of wheat-growers.

The miners of silver are also many thousand strong. They receive good wages, but live in regions where the cost of subsistence is exceedingly high, and to them also a decrease in weekly or monthly receipts means a serious change in condition. A part, at least, of the loss involved by the fall in the price of silver must fall on them, because there are many mines which cannot continue in operation while silver brings less than half its former price without some reduction of wages. Moreover, there are many mines which cannot be operated at all with profit until silver commands a better price, and the large number of miners thrown out of employment by the closing of such mines naturally seek work elsewhere, and by competition depress the wages of those yet employed. Until within the last twenty years silver had never fallen below 50 cents per ounce, but it has now sold at about 25 cents.

The great bodies of producers who are thus subjected to serious losses and trials are much inclined to regard the fall in silver and the fall in wheat as bearing to each other the relation of cause and effect. Evidently a large proportion of them believe that silver has been artificially depressed by the action of various Governments, and that cheaper silver has practically lowered the price of wheat exportable from India and other silver-using countries. In this idea they are prone to regard the restoration of silver to full exchange as the only remedy. Farmers think it would make wheat worth \$1 per bushel. Miners think it would make silver worth \$1 per ounce.

This reasoning does not take sufficient account of the fact that progress in industries and arts, reduction in the cost of transportation, and increase in the efficiency of labor through use of better machinery and appliances have affected the prices both of silver and of wheat in all producing countries. Other products of almost every kind have been cheapened by use of better machinery and methods, and by better facilities for transportation, and many of them have been more reduced in price than wheat or silver. Iron and all its products have been reduced more than half in price during the last twenty years, and a very large number of other articles almost without number. It is an assumption not warranted by facts to suppose that but for the action of Governments these two products would have maintained their former prices, while all others declined greatly, although the actual cost of moving wheat to market has been reduced more than one-half.

There is also the further fact that attempts to resist the natural decline by artificial means have worked great harm to producers of silver and of wheat. It was recently shown that the legislation providing for arbitrary purchases of silver by Government had been followed in each case by a great increase in production and a great decline in price. Wheat has been depressed in like manner by systematically false reports of yield, which have caused year after year powerful combinations of operators to maintain artificial prices, thus preventing the natural distribution of the Nation's product, until the quantity of unsold wheat in sight has been for years past about twice as large as in former years. This accumulation of stocks, the result of false information systematically circulated, in part by organizations of farmers themselves, and the speculations thereby engendered, have done more to produce the phenomenally low price of wheat than any increase in movement from silver-using countries, or reduction in the price of wheat shipped from those countries.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE TURK.

A remarkable dispatch from Constantinople is published in "Le Temps," the best-informed Paris Journal on foreign affairs. It states that the United States Minister has demanded the immediate liberation of two Armenian prisoners in Iskanderun, Northern Syria. The demand is grounded upon their American citizenship, and is accompanied by a threat to have an ironclad ordered to the Syrian coast if the prisoners are not released without delay. This menace is a startling one, especially when a diplomatic representative of the present Administration is held responsible for it. But while the State Department under Secretary Gresham has been conspicuously inert and deliberate in dealing with diplomatic questions at Constantinople, it is represented there by a remarkably eccentric and impulsive Minister, who has done more than one astonishing thing in the course of his career. The Paris rumor requires official confirmation, but it is incredible that Minister Terrell has under stress of excitement threatened to bombard Iskanderun with a fleet of American ironclads. The man who wrote a scandalous poem on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, eulogizing John Wilkes Booth as a Brutus striking down "the blackamoor's god," is capable of making a good deal of stage thunder behind the diplomatic scenes.

The Minister's course, if it be correctly reported, is particularly eccentric, because the Administration which he represents has gone out of its way to befriended the "unspeakable Turk" and to justify persecution of Armenians who are naturalized Americans. This fact has escaped public observation because there has been so much that is Quixotic and reactionary in the diplomacy of the last year; but the following citation from the President's message of December, 1893, shows that the Administration, far from being in the mood for a naval

demonstration of ironclads against Syria, has already taken up the cudgels in defence of the Sultan: Turkey complains that her Armenian subjects obtain citizenship in this country, not to identify themselves in good faith with our people, but with the intention of returning to the land of their birth and there engaging in sedition. This complaint is in this country in the Armenian language open counsel to its readers to arm, organize and participate in movements for the subversion of Turkish authority in the Asiatic provinces. The Ottoman Government has announced its intention to expel its dominions Armenians who have obtained naturalization in the United States since 1868. The right to expel any or all classes of aliens is an attribute of sovereignty. It is a right asserted, and to a limited extent enforced, by the United States with the sanction of the highest court. There being no naturalization treaty between the United States and Turkey, our Minister at Constantinople has been instructed that, while recognizing the right of that Government to enforce its declared policy without foundation. This complaint is expected to protect them from unnecessary harshness of treatment.

The Porte, as our readers are undoubtedly aware, has been conviving at and openly encouraging the persecution of Christians in Asia Minor and acts of mob violence against missionary stations and schools. A missionary college has been burned, and there have been many murders, robberies and outrages. The Porte, having decreed the expulsion of all Armenians who are naturalized American citizens, has been rigorously enforcing its barbarous policy. American missionaries naturally looked for measures of protection from the Government at Washington; but when they asked for bread they received a stone. The President practically refused to intervene on behalf of these persecuted naturalized Americans, and deliberately argued the case against them, greatly to the satisfaction of the fanatical palace ring that surrounds the Sultan. What was worse, his unnecessary and unseemly defence of the Porte was not warranted by the facts; for it is not true that naturalized Americans return to Armenia to instigate sedition and rebellion; and while there is no naturalization treaty between the United States and Turkey, the indiscriminate expulsion of innocent American citizens from the Sultan's dominions is contrary to international law and precedent. This subject is ably discussed in a letter from Clarence Greeley published on another page.

Minister Terrell may have chosen to mark out a new line of diplomacy on his own account without reference to the President's message or to his instructions from the State Department. As we have said, it is an eccentric person, capable of doing extraordinary things. If he has overruled the President's defence of the Mahometan policy of expelling or murdering Christians who are citizens of the United States, it would be only natural for him to bring in a fleet of ironclads in order to render his action impressive. But the Minister needs to be reminded that the President is very serious in all his diplomatic adventures and exceedingly obstinate in his deeds of knight-errantry on behalf of deposed Queens and intolerant Mahometan sovereigns. Missionaries are not allowed to interfere with the President's reverence for the sacred sovereign rights of royal despots. Minister Terrell, instead of getting a round for the bombardment of Iskanderun, may receive an abrupt recall from his master at Washington.

THE POPE AND THE EASTERN CHURCH.

The bold announcement the other day that the Pope is about to issue an Encyclical in regard to the unity of the Eastern and Western Churches would excite mere interest if there was any general belief that such a unity is possible. The great schism between the East and the West which in the ninth century, but the causes that led to it date from the division of the Roman Empire. The establishment of Constantinople as one of the capitals of the Empire tended to confirm the Eastern churches in the attitude of independence which they had always assumed toward the Roman Pontiff. The great patriarchates of Rome on the one side, and of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem on the other, had for centuries striven for precedence, owing to the intellectual and spiritual decadence of the last three patriarchates, it seemed as though Rome would soon come to be recognized as the seat of the primacy, when the patriarchate of Constantinople appeared to contest its claim. The patriarch of Constantinople was not backward in asserting his pretensions, not merely to independence, but to supremacy. His strongest argument was, of course, that which had been employed by the Roman Pontiffs, namely, that spiritual primacy belongs of right to the patriarch of the chief seat of Empire. To meet this plea the Roman Pontiffs fell back on the tradition that the city of Rome had another claim on the spiritual allegiance of Christendom. It was not merely the most ancient seat of Empire, but it was doubly an Apostolic See, since it was founded by Saints Peter and Paul. At the same time the two divisions of the Church were drifting apart on other questions of doctrine and polity, until toward the close of the ninth century Pope Nicholas I of Rome and the Patriarch Photius of Constantinople mutually excommunicated each other. And the schism which was then begun has never been healed since. Pope Nicholas was strengthened in his claims to universal supremacy by the forged Isidorian Decretals, which first saw the light about 850 A. D. These decretals purported to have been compiled by Isidore of Seville in the seventh century, and consisted of alleged letters written by various early Popes in which the Papal claims were amply recognized. These forgeries were generally accepted by the Western Church, and were a potent factor in establishing the power of the Papacy. But they were utterly discredited in the East, and in fact did much to widen the breach already existing between the two Churches.

Since then there have been numerous attempts to compose this old quarrel, but they have all been unsuccessful. Other differences than the Primacy of the Pope now exist. One of them is the so-called "filioque" clause in the Creed. The Western Church declares that the Holy Ghost proceeds "from the Father and the Son," while the Eastern Church says that He proceeds from the Father only. It is admitted by most Church historians that the "filioque" clause crept into the Western Creed through an inadvertence, a circumstance which has only intensified the opposition of the Eastern Church to it. It is, indeed, probable that if the Papal claims were entirely eliminated from the controversy this one thing would keep the two Churches apart. In view of all these facts it is hard to see how the coming Encyclical of the Pope can contribute much toward healing the long-standing breach between the two Churches, unless he should yield all the points at issue, which is not within the bounds of possibility. For it is certain that the Orthodox Greek Church is as firmly as ever opposed to any compromise.

Mayor Gilroy has issued an appeal to the people of the city, calling upon them for still further contributions for the benefit of those in sore need. In the opinion of those best competent to judge, he says, it is likely that special relief efforts must be kept up for at least eight weeks longer. Through a committee of leading citizens he hopes to obtain a large fund which may be used for giving direct aid or work to the deserving. The committee is to meet to-morrow for the purpose of devising plans whereby the object in view may be attained. A good deal has already been done by the liberal-hearted for the

succor of those in distress, but it is evident that much more will be required to meet the demands that are constantly being made. The old saying that "the fools are not all dead yet" conveys the consoling suggestion that their number may be diminishing. But the McKean trial inspires no such hope concerning liars. Inasmuch as Prime Minister Crispi announces that order has been restored in Sicily, and that the pacification of the island is complete, the French Government has some reason to feel uneasy at the fact that troops are still being dispatched to Palermo and other points of the island. At the present moment there is an army of more than 60,000 men concentrated in Sicily, while the Italian fleet has been assembled at Messina. As the African coast is only a few hours' distance by steam, it is feared at Paris that Crispi may at length give satisfaction to popular sentiment in Italy by making the long-expected descent on Tripoli, which would enhance the prestige of the monarchy among the people and divert the attention of the latter from the consideration of their own miseries and difficulties. The action of Signor Crispi in prohibiting the dispatch of any news from Sicily, and likewise in proroguing the Legislature until the end of this month for the purpose apparently of avoiding indiscreet inquiries, is calculated to confirm rather than dispel these apprehensions at Paris.

Mr. Gladstone's resignation appears to be considerably more remote than the need of resignation on the part of his political adversaries. One of the best speeches of the Republican canvass of 1892 was made by a German workman in Passaic, N. J. "I work in a mill," he said at a mass-meeting. "Since 1850, when the McKinley tariff was adopted, I have had my pay raised and my hours of work shortened until I can now figure a gain in wages of \$17 a year. That's what I gained by Protection." That was an effective speech then, and Joseph Romer, who made it, was enthusiastically applauded. How much more eloquent it sounds now, after a year of Democratic wage-reduction and factory-closing!

The Democrats are talking now of mandating the Republican Supervisors in Brooklyn in order to prevent Mr. Lind from serving as Supervisor of the Eighth Ward. It is possible, though, that they may not be able to find a Judge Clute in Brooklyn. It is a novelty that a suit has been brought in one of the city courts by a man who wishes to recover the amount paid by him to a Tammany district leader for an office which is no longer held. It is not an altogether surprising fact that the defendant in the action is a brother of Fire Commissioner Scannell. The amount of the consideration was \$25 a month, and in all \$175 was paid. Of course the transaction was not open bargain and sale. The clerk was told that he must hand over \$25 each month because the man whose place he took had been careless and destroyed several costly books. Plainly this was a mere pretext; there must always be one in every case of the kind. "At there are numerous such cases is only too probable. According to the statement of Register Levy, certain places belong to certain districts and the 'leaders' do with them as they please. How long are the people of New-York going to submit to such a rotten system as that of Tammany Hall?

The citizen who could breathe the pure air of New-York yesterday and at the same time inhale a long, or even feel a willingness, to pollute it with soft-soap smoke ought to be banished to Chicago for the rest of his days. Speaker Crisp was ready to rule on Wednesday that a quorum of the House was not a majority of the total membership, but a majority of the members elected, without reference to existing vacancies. It was evident, however, that a considerable number of the men of his own party would not have supported such a ruling, and so the issue was not actually reached. As three of the four vacancies are now virtually filled, this question is not likely soon to come up again, but it is evident that such a ruling might lead to serious complications. The common-sense construction of the Constitution constitutes a quorum.

The young gentlemen of our colleges who are afraid that football reform is going to spoil the game, and who long for an old-fashioned scrimmage, might do worse than to go to Rio and tackle a Brazilian press-gang. The days of true heroism are not passed. A notable illustration of this truth was afforded by the conduct of the six Dutch sailors who were swallowed up in the sea the other day in a self-sacrificing effort to save the lives of a group of castaways on a drifting wreck. Within two or three days a case has occurred nearer home. Dr. Franklin M. Kemp, house surgeon at the Long Island College Hospital, displayed the same noble quality when he resolutely bared his arm in order that his blood might be transferred to the veins of a humble patient overcome by escaping gas and in imminent peril of death. He knew well enough that he was risking his life on the bare chance of saving that of one whom he had no personal claim to, and that if physicians in the hospital warned him of the danger and attempted to dissuade him, but he insisted on making the sacrifice. The credit due him is not diminished by the circumstance that his heroic conduct was in vain. He showed the sort of stuff that is in him and that fits him pre-eminently for the profession he has chosen.

Colonel A. M. Coffey of Knobnoster, Mo., is ninety years of age. Coffey County, Kan., was named after him. The Rev. George W. Huntington, one of the clergymen who is taking part in the revival services in Brooklyn, was an assistant paymaster in the Volunteer Navy from October, 1863, to November, 1865. Peter van Beneden, one of the most famous savants of Belgium, died a few days ago at Louvain, where he had filled the chair of natural sciences from 1855. He was eighty-two years old. Van Beneden was one of the founders of modern zoology. A special subject of investigation and study for Beneden was the whale. In order to learn as much as possible about the animal, he went on a number of whaling expeditions. He discovered the prehistoric sea fauna found in the excavations made for the Antwerp fortifications. This work attracted widespread attention. Rear-Admiral Benham was a lieutenant on the U. S. S. Crusader, one of a fleet of four steam vessels fitted out in 1823 to cruise off the coast of Cuba against the slave-trading ships. This was the first attempt to employ steamers against the slave trade. The chief engineer of the Crusader was a Chicago paper, recalling that young Lieutenant Benham was a great favorite in the Navy; a fine sailor, an excellent officer and every modern sentiment characterized by sound sense, firmness and coolness.

Dr. Fred A. Cook, who was the ethnologist of Lieutenant Peary's first Arctic expedition, is to fit up a whaling steamer and take a lot of Esquimaux dogs to sledge over Antarctic ice. He will go from New-York to the Falkland Islands, and thence to Louis Philippe Land, where a base of supplies will be established. Then he will go as far south as his ship will take him, and go by sledges and on foot to the South Pole as he can get in three months. There will be fourteen in the party, and he expects to be back at the Falkland Islands in May of next year. Ferdinand Pousset, who introduced certain German beers into France, died in Paris a few days ago, leaving a fortune of 2,500,000 francs. He left 1,800,000 francs to be divided among seventeen favorite guests of his house, who helped him overcome the opposition of patriotic Frenchmen to his innovation. Among the seventeen are several well-known artists, authors and newspaper men. Pousset was formerly an officer in the French Army. He took part in the Franco-Prussian war and went several times to Yokohama as director of the school of

war there. In 1878 he returned to France and established the restaurant. He kept an exact record of all the regular visitors to his place, how often they came, how long they staid, what they drank. This book, his will says, must be destroyed. There are few boys who will not feel sorry to hear of the death of R. M. Ballantyne. He wrote his first story for boys in 1848, when he was twenty-three years of age, and after he had been for six years a resident of the Hudson Bay Company territories. Before he emigrated he had translated extensively in other countries, so that his numerous stories cover a great part of the world. Lincoln's birthday will be celebrated by the Lincoln League of Watertown, N. Y., with John H. Littlefield's well-known lecture, "Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"Texas Siftings," which ought to be an authority, but perhaps is not, says that Governor Hogg of Texas, has two children, named Ura and Ima. The company are seated at the dinner table. Enter Hapgood, who is excited, highly excited and exclaiming, "Quick, quick—a glass of wine!" People stare at each other, and at last the wish is complied with. Hapgood drinks off a glass of wine which has been poured out by the mistress of the house, who inquires what has happened. "Oh, mamma, I've been drowsy all night. Ah, that wine has done me good! I feel better now, only faint. I have just managed to break both the front and back teeth of the china marmalade dishes!" (Paris Voltaire.) Grandma Wray, of Fairbury, Ill., who has just celebrated her 103rd birthday, says: "I hear people